

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



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Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional News

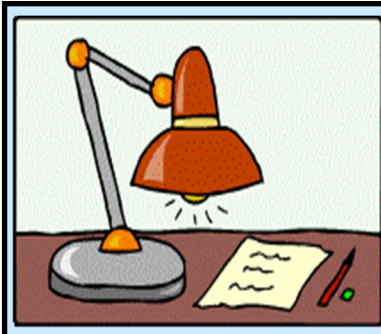


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From the desk of the
Regional Overseer
James T. Smith



Think It Not Strange

This past year of 2020 has been unlike any other that I have previously witnessed, and I am now over seventy years old. During my lifetime, I have heard many sermons regarding the last days events (before our Lord's return) that we would experience. Much has been preached and written regarding what it would be like to live through such a time.

We are now being assaulted both religiously and spiritually on every hand. By religiously, I mean the efforts to close down our freedom of worship rights. Our governments have no problem with closing churches, while allowing all sorts of "ungodly" places to remain open. The assault on our beliefs (marriage, life of the unborn, morality, etc.) are under frontal assault as well. The world demands that we conform to their (lack of) belief system, or else! The term now used to refer to their actions toward us is that we are to be "cancelled." Some of our political leaders even speak of the need that we be sent to re-education camps!

By spirituality, I mean the ungodly environment to which we are subjected to everywhere we turn. Satan has taken over our educational system. Our children are being indoctrinated with all manner of ungodly concepts. Transgenderism and other LGBTQ lifestyles are being normalized. Television networks (e.g., Hallmark) that once focused on "*traditional values*" have joined in the production of such filth. Many of the world's supposed spiritual leaders from mainline denominations, and now from even evangelicals are moving to accept (tolerate), indeed even to embrace (endorse) such ungodliness.

Our world is now being bombarded on many fronts. The COVID-19 is a worldwide event. One particular political group, the *World Economic Forum* (<https://www.weforum.org>), is a worldwide organization dating back to the 1980's, and before that under other names. This group openly promotes a one-world government. Such activities as the DAVOS annual meetings are part of this effort. Such members as George Soros have declared their targeting the destruction of all conservative values. To achieve its goal, its declared strategy includes the replacement of all religions and moral values with an amoral lifestyle.

Many Christians are asking in earnest "*What are we to do?*" Last Sunday I preached in Fairmont from Revelation 3:14-22 regarding Laodicea, the last of the seven churches. Many believe that the seven churches typify seven ages or periods of church history. Each church typifies the behavior of Christians during that given period of time.

In particular, Laodicea is characterized by the Lord as a lukewarm church. Revelation 3:15 *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”* The general state of Christianity has been one of lukewarmness. We have pretty much followed a “go along to get along” mentality, not only in how we respond to the world around us, but in how we would fulfill the Lord’s great commission. If we ever are going to be witnesses for Christ, it is now!

I cannot believe that the Lord is returning for a lukewarm church. In fact, His judgment of that lukewarm church was given in Revelation 3:16 *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

How did we ever become convinced that lukewarm was good enough? I fear that too many have compared themselves to the rest of the world (which is decidedly getting worse and worse), rather than to the One whom we are to measure up to *“the fulness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13). We must do more than just “stay ahead of the herd” to avoid the trampling that is coming.

I also have recently preached from Isaiah 28:17 where the Lord speaks that *“Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.”* He will bring His judgment down upon the world, indeed on all who have rested in a *“refuge of lies.”*

Fortunately, the Lord did not stop with His rebuke of Laodicea’s current state. He went on to offer a remedy for their current miserable condition in Revelation 3:18 *“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”*

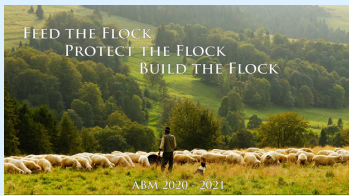
It is time for us to acquire that *“gold tried in the fire.”* How are we to accomplish this? We are told in 1 Peter 1:7 *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”* Though trials come from the world, it is the Lord who allows us to face those fires.

Peter further explains the purpose of those trials in 1 Peter 4:12-13 *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”*

None of us can say exactly what lies on the horizon for God’s Church. The road ahead is likely to become yet more difficult than what we have thus far endured. But, the Lord will see us through the trials that lie ahead.

So, **“think it not strange”** but put your trust completely into His hand, and He surely will lead each of us through each trial. Yea, let us even **“rejoice”!**

Finally, let us return to Revelation 3:21 to consider His promise **“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”**



Juanita Atha Regional ABM Coordinator

When the leaders of our country met to write the Constitution the thirteen former colonies could not agree on an effective national government. When the deadlock appeared too great to be broken by human power, eighty-one -year-old Benjamin Franklin rose to his feet.

“I have lived a long time,” He said, “and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth—that God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice (Matt. 10:29), is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”

We have been assured in the sacred writings that *“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”* (Psalm 127:1). We, the children of God have to deal with each other and with sinners with love to build The Church of God praying each day for God to guide our life each minute of the day

We lost one of our sisters recently; Sister Carol Atha. Pray for her family and for our Church at Page. We need to pray more and fast one day a week for sinners. This virus is killing thousands each day, many of which need the Lord.



As most are aware, Sister Shanna Campos has become our new General Sunday School Coordinator. Please see her inspirational boost in the February issue of *The Evening Light: Shades of Truth*. You are sure to enjoy it.



This pandemic has taken a toll on our Sunday School attendance around the country. Let's not be discouraged, but rather keep on believing and praying for this to be behind us soon so we can go forward for the Lord.

October World Missions

GOAL REACHED!

\$100,000

Look what the Lord has done, and during a pandemic! We give God the praise for blessing us with this exceptional offering! Thank you to each one who gave to October World Missions! You went above and beyond to help us reach our goal of \$100,000.00 (and even more, as we exceeded our goal) and from the bottom of my heart I say, THANK YOU! Much appreciation to our ladies of the Women's Missionary Band who raised funds for this effort! Our WMB ladies have been very busy!

—Sharon Griffin, General WMB Coordinator

The

MARCH WORLD MISSION DRIVE

WILL BE HERE BEFORE WE REALIZE IT.

**The total amount raised in our [GLMR] Region for the
OCTOBER drive was \$ 2,275.60**

Let's make the March Mission drive be this much or even more as God blesses each one in their giving.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

—2 Corinthians 9:7



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

Happy New Year in the Lord!

I thought I might share with you some encouraging Scriptures. And, there is nothing better—nothing other than God's Holy Word to stand on; to lean on!

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

1 Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

Heb. 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Isaiah 54:10 *For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.*

Zech. 13:9 *And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

1 John 2:5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

2 Tim. 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

2 Thess. 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*

Jude v. 24 *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

Psalms 31:23 *O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.*

Psalms 101:6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

2 Thess. 2:15-17 *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*

Continued from page 6

Highlighting in Ezekiel 9: "...one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side... And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof...but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary." Praise God! Do we not sigh and cry for the abominations that be done in this world;—in this day and time. I believe we do.

We do not physically have a mark on our foreheads. I like the thought of having the Spiritual marking that identifies us and that is being baptized by the Holy Ghost and fire.

We can stand on this Scripture below and know that God has and will take care of His own.

2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his."

Castalia, Ohio News

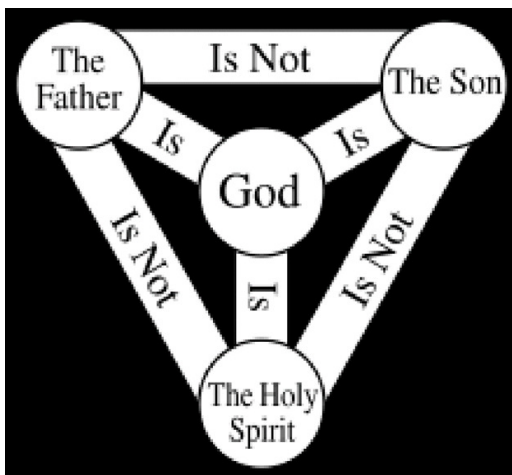
We celebrated Brother Don and Sister Peggy's 50th Anniversary in August with the bride and groom renewing their wedding vows, and following that we had a reception for them. It was truly a joyous occasion. We love them both very much and appreciate them. It is a wonderful thing to see how much they still very much love each other. God is so good!!!

We had another joyous occasion when we put together a surprise appreciation dinner for Sister Becky Bolyard. She was presented with a plaque of appreciation for all that she does for God and our local church. She has been such a blessing and volunteers to help put together events whenever an occasion arises. We have such a wonderful church family here and we are truly blessed.

November—On the 15th we had a special dinner for our Pastor to show him how much we appreciate him and for all he does for us and for the Church of God. There was lots of good food and fellowship had by all.

December—On the 13th we had our Christmas banquet at our church. We picked teams and we built gingerbread houses and had tons of fun doing it. There were so many different ideas for making the houses and it was nice to see each one's different designs. Also, there was plenty of good food and fellowship.

January 2021—I am so very happy to announce that as of January 17th we have a new member Sister Linda Pugh. She took the covenant on Sunday morning and we are all just so overjoyed as I am sure the Lord is too. I know all of heaven is rejoicing. God is so good all the time and it's wonderful to see his blessings flow.

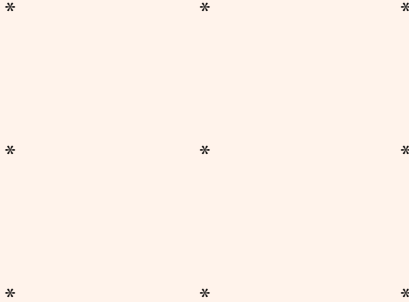


Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

GOD is ONE, but exists in three persons. We call this the TRINITY. This is a great mystery that no one can explain. God made Man in His image. We too, have a three-fold design, Body, Soul, and Spirit.

Mind Trap

Try to connect the nine dots with only four straight lines without lifting the head of the pencil off the paper. The correct answer will have four straight lines that cross only one time.



This is possible. The correct answer will appear in the next issue of this paper. Have fun!

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the book, MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

Where is Your Delight?

According to David, the godly man's "*delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*" (Psa. 1:2).

Of course, the kind of godliness David described was *more than talk*. It was evidenced in the *life*. He didn't walk by the counsel of ungodly men. He was not found standing for the things sinners did. And he didn't sit around scorning those who had holy ideals.

It is not said that his main delight was in being blessed. Rather, he was blessed because he *walked uprightly*. And the secret of his uprightness was that *his delight was in God's Word*. It never ceases to be disgusting to see people walk like the devil, yet *shout and sing* like angels!



Featuring highlights from the ministry of

C. J. Cunningham

Former State Overseer in the
Church of God of Prophecy

An Introduction:

Cecil J. Cunningham was born October 1, 1915 in Huntsville, Alabama. He was saved and joined the Church in 1932. Shortly thereafter he was called into the ministry and became a licensed evangelist in 1934. He was ordained as Bishop in 1943 by A. J. Tomlinson. He pastored ten churches and was State Overseer of the following states: Alabama, Kansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. He was married to Bonnie Irene Shelton and they were blessed with a son, David Lee, who died in infancy and three daughters; Enzenia Elnora, Mattie Ruth and Helen Irene who all grew up to marry preachers.

Brother Cunningham was my Overseer in the state of Louisiana from 1958 to 1965. I got to know him better in 1963 when I moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where the state headquarters was. He was appointed to Wisconsin in 1965 and I did not see him much after that until he retired in 1980.

About a couple of years prior to this time I had a dream that Brother Cunningham was instructing me and another young minister. He was demonstrating how to rescue people in sin. He said, "You must get down in the ditch to pull them out to safety." As I looked on him in the ditch with mud on his feet I thought, "I sure would hate to have to do that as I don't like mud." But he was only teaching us and yet was willing to do that to show us how.

In 1984 after his retirement from appointed work I asked him to come and conduct a revival for me at the church I was pastoring which was Charleston, Tennessee. He came and at the end of the revival we had a baptizing. There was a lady in re-marriage who claimed to be saved and wanted to be baptized. I was worried about how to handle the situation. So I went to Brother Cunningham for his advice. He simply said that I should explain how the Church taught about candidate's eligibility for baptism. I was still worried because I thought that she would show up anyway and demand to be baptized. The dream about the mud in the ditch came back to mind and I gathered that God was telling me to have confidence in Brother Cunningham's advice. I cautiously done as he suggested and God blessed the baptism service without any incident.

As Brother Cunningham stayed in our home during that week we visited Fields of the Wood as well as the Union Grove Church where the second Assembly was held. This was his first time to visit that historical location. I was glad I could be his host for such a visit as this.

I trust the following issues of our regional paper on subjects concerning his ministry will be an inspiration to you as it has been to me. —*The Editor*



Ole Glory

Torn and Tattered

Pray for A Revival of Righteousness

The above is a snapshot of the US flag which was flown from our flag pole at the entrance to the driveway leading to our local church. As you can see the “storms of life” has wreaked havoc on the dear ole banner. It is split into two parts with much of the parts being in tatters. Sad to say, but this bespeaks the condition of our dearly beloved country. Our nation is divided with each “side” vying for dominance. This should move every Christian and all our US membership to earnest prayer for a divine intervention.

The Scripture inform us that “*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn*” (Proverbs 29:2). We are also admonished in 1 Timothy 2:1-4: “*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*”

God desires for all men everywhere to be saved. As His Church we should have that same desire. It is our responsibility to pray for the salvation and wellbeing of all regardless of their philosophy or background. “*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people*” (Prov. 14:34). Prayer is the only means to lift our nation into righteousness. We need to keep those in authority on our hearts in prayer. Voting might be praise-worthy in some circles but it cannot assure one of any certain outcome; only God can do this and He has chosen to work according to our praying.

We have been through a similar situation in the Church in 1993, but God graciously brought us out but only when we submitted to Him in complete surrender through prayer. We have but a short time to get the work completed that God has assigned to the Church. Church, let us pray more earnestly for God to intervene in the hearts and affairs of men and women everywhere for His glory and honor and for our freedom and safety.

—Walter Lofton, Regional Evangelism Director

Someone Has Said:

Some people strengthen the society just by being the kind of people they are.

A Short Story From



By Ora Mae Willing, Managing Editor

When Two Agree

Doris knew she had to resign as teacher of this lonely village school—and get away. Her hands trembled on the letter that notified her that she had only loved and lost. He had married the captain's daughter after a whirlwind courtship and was very happy. Now she could sympathize with Jeff!

Doris slipped the letter in her purse, and smiled her sweetest smile. A dozen red-cheeked third-graders smiled back. They were carried away with the excitement of the PTA Valentine Banquet Friday night! She watched their small hands as they cut out giant hearts of red and white and drew the crude letters that only a loving parent could read and understand. Even Ricky was smiling!

Ricky! Doris noticed Ricky more closely. His hands were at work, too. A smile had lighted up his handsome face. If Ricky could smile and make valentines, anyone could!

Doris suddenly realized how this child must feel—alone, so alone. Snow fell silently, covering both window shutters in the log classroom; she flipped on the light. But Ricky hadn't noticed the light fading; he kept smiling and working. Just watching his dark blue eyes as they studied the letters he drew, gave Doris courage.

Ricky was a loner. He came and went alone. He was a head taller than the others, and as brilliant as the lights winking off the brass candleholders on her desk.

Suddenly Ricky looked up and into her eyes. She noticed that his eyes were troubled. He pushed back a golden shock of hair, and beckoned her to his desk.

Doris looked down at his sandaled feet and shivered inside. The other kids wore boots. His jacket was thin and too small. His dad was the village drunk, who, according to rumors, spent more time in jail than out. Doris remembered, with a tinge of guilt, that she had never bothered to visit the dump he called home.

In fact, nobody seemed to know where he lived. The minute the last bell rang every day, he was seen darting up the mountainside like a deer and away...and the kids laughed and yelled after him and called him names.

And Doris—so self-centered with her own affairs had just looked on...and planned for her spring wedding. But now—as of this morning—there wasn't anything else to plan. She had been let down flat and hard...and there was Ricky, alone as he'd always been. But now she was seeing him as a child instead of a number on the roll at Old Smoky Village.

Ricky stood to his feet as she approached. Nobody was looking, so he pulled her down to his level. His breath came in little hot puffs as he whispered in her ear,

and his voice was clear:

“Do you believe in God?”

Doris half smiled. “Yes, doesn’t everyone?” she asked.

Ricky did not answer. He said, “I want to tell you a secret then...It’s about my father. Please will you pray with me that Jesus will bring him to the Valentine Banquet?”

Before Doris could catch her breath, he thrust his valentine in her hand and said, “Put this on the table where he’ll sit at the banquet—to surprise him!”

Doris studied the neat valentine with I LOVE YOU, DADDY printed in bold letters and asked, “Has anyone here ever seen your father?”

He shook his head, and Doris smiled a relieved smile. She had just thought of a scheme. Nobody had seen the man himself, but the kids had talked about the scars and bruises he had inflicted upon poor Ricky.

An hour later Doris drove her jeep up the mountainside and parked near the lone phone booth on the ledge. The pine-scented air braced her and gave her courage to call Jeff, her life-long friend across the mountains.

She felt an inward glow in recalling Jeff as a praying man. In fact, when she and her merry friends had laughed at him for being so dedicated to God, he had just smiled and kept on praying. He had received many a knock and heartache along the way, she remembered, but his very life had been poured out for others. Slowly Doris dialed his number.

“Hello,” he answered on the second ring.

Doris felt a tear sting her eye. “Hello, Jeff,” she said quickly while her nerve held out. “Am I ever glad to hear your voice!” Then she told him all about Ricky and his predicament.

“He asked me to pray,” she said, half laughing. “But—guess I never was the praying kind.”

Then she invited Jeff to the banquet, and he said he would be delighted to come.

And he came. Doris heard the wooden door squeak open a good hour before the banquet was to start.

She led him over to the corner table which was covered with red plastic. He smiled at Ricky’s valentine. Doris smiled too. She was mentally figuring out the best way to inform Jeff that she wanted him to pass off as Ricky’s father. She couldn’t expect Jeff to tell a lie—or even act one—he’d balk at that.

All right then. He could sit beside Ricky—and make sure nobody plied them with questions. Let these kids go home just once without making fun of Ricky. Let them go home and remember they’d seen him with a decent father. Doris drew in a sharp breath.

There were a thousand details to work out, but she would work them out, one by one. She had to. Better this than try to bail a drunk out of jail and lead him up here to embarrass the daylights out of everyone—including Ricky.

“Did you pray that Ricky’s father would come?” Jeff asked as he laid a log on the

grate and looked up. Doris felt hot blood rushing to her face. "I told you the old sot stays in jail—that's what the kids all say."

Doris lighted a candle before she spoke again, then she said haplessly, "Why lasso that old—sot and drag him in...I think Ricky would be satisfied—or delighted—to be seen with a real man."

Jeff nodded and answered, "But Jesus said, '*If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven*' (Matthew 18:19). God can change people!"

Suddenly the front door flew open! Doris opened her mouth to speak but closed it without a word. For there, Ricky stood, shaking snow from his nice blue overcoat and his new black boots. One glance would identify the tall, slim stranger with him as his father.

Ricky bounded over to Doris and pulled her down to his level and shouted, "He's here! My REAL FATHER!" Then he threw both arms around her, and she hugged him tightly.

Doris looked up at him through her tears. "But Ricky, He—you say he's your real father?"

"Sure," said Ricky, "didn't you PRAY?"

Somehow, she managed to steer them to the table—the one with the valentine—and then to find her way back to Jeff—by now the dining room hall was crowded. Of course, every eye was riveted to the happiest corner in the hall where Ricky sat with his father's arm around him. There had to be an explanation to this miracle. There was!

Before the evening was over it came out. Ricky's father was thought to have been killed in combat somewhere in Korea, but was in a prison camp. Meanwhile, poor little Ricky—after the death of his mother—was shifted from one foster home to another...and in each one he had tried to adjust—even in the home of the village drunk whom he even called "my dad."

Doris moved over to the fireplace to think—alone—but Jeff followed her. His voice came in a whisper across her shoulders. "God certainly knows how to mend lives—and hearts." Was he referring to her broken heart? She glanced back at Ricky, then up at Jeff. His eyes caught and held hers for the space of a heartbeat.

"Why don't you give God a chance to make you happy, Doris? You'll never be happy until you accept Christ as your Saviour."

Doris tried to smile. All her life she had left God out and tried to work things out her own way...no wonder she was always so lonely inside and miserable. Why try any longer to outwit God?

"You are right, Jeff," she said, fighting back tears. "I'm tired of pretending. I want to be saved—forgiven of all my sins—tonight. If you don't mind, let us slip across the hall to my office when this is over—and have a prayer meeting."

Jeff's eyes were glazed with unshed tears as he looked down at her. "Did you say, 'If you don't mind'? Doris, I've prayed for this moment since the day you broke my heart by sending me that 'Dear John' letter."

Transubstantiation

The Catholic doctrine of “*Transubstantiation*” states that the bread and wine of the Communion is miraculously or magically changed into the actual flesh and blood of Christ. Even though Christ commanded that we eat His flesh and drink His blood in order to walk with Him, we know that He was referring to the spiritual and not the natural. The following poem by an unknown poet blows the cover off the Catholic doctrine on transubstantiation.



A Roman Miracle

A pretty maid, a Protestant, was to a Catholic wed;
To love all Bible truths and tales, quite early she'd been bred.
It sorely grieved her husband's heart that she would not comply,
And join the Mother Church of Rome and heretics deny.

So, day by day he flattered her, but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down to idols made of wood.
The Mass, the host, the miracles, were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too, she'd never dare believe.

He went to see his clergyman and told him his sad tale.
“My wife is an unbeliever, sir; you can perhaps prevail;
For all your Romish miracles my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle may lead to her conversion.”

The priest went with the gentleman—he thought to gain a prize.
He said, “I will convert her, sir, and open both her eyes.”
So, when they came into the house, the husband loudly cried,
“The priest has come to dine with us!” “He's welcome,” she replied.

And when, at last, the meal was o're, the priest at once began,
To teach his hostess all about the sinful state of man;
The greatness of our Savior's love, which Christians can't deny,
To give Himself a sacrifice and for our sins to die.

“I will return tomorrow, lass, prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle will stop your soul's decline.”
“I'll bake the bread,” the lady said. “You may,” he did reply,
“And when you've seen this miracle, convinced you'll be, say I.”

The priest did come accordingly, the bread and wine did bless,
The lady asked, “Sir, is it changed?” the priest answered, “Yes,
It's changed from common bread and wine to truly flesh and blood;
Begorra, lass, this power of mine has changed it into God.”

So, having blessed the bread and wine, to eat they did prepare.
 The lady said unto the priest, "I warn you to take care,
 For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed right in the batter,
 But since you have its nature changed, it cannot really matter."

The priest was struck real dumb—he looked as pale as death.
 The bread and wine fell from his hands and he did gasp for breath.
 "Bring me my horse!" the priest cried, "This is a cursed home!"
 The lady replied, "Begone; tis you who shares the curse of Rome."

The husband, too, he sat surprised, not a word did he say.
 At length he spoke, "My dear," said he, "the priest has run away;
 To gulp such mummery and tripe, I'm not for sure, quite able;
 I'll go with you and we'll renounce this Roman Catholic fable."

The Fallacy of "No Government"

Since the Bible Church is an organized government as real as the United States government, how can people hold on to that erroneous theory that it is made up of all converted people of all churches and no churches? Under that false idea there is no membership and no identification. There is no way that anyone can have rule or authority over anybody else. How can such people apply Hebrews 13:17? "*Obey them that have the rule over you.*" Who is the ruler in such a loose nothing? The idea is ridiculous! That false idea must be blasted by the truth of the Bible and the Holy Ghost, as He once operated on the minds of honest and sincere people. Indeed, it is being done now, and up-to-date people are truly seeing the fallacy and unreasonableness of such erroneous teaching. Thank God for the enlightening power of the Holy Ghost. All false ways are to be put down by the bright shining of the truth as revealed and illuminated by the Holy Ghost. —A. J. Tomlinson, *WWM January 17, 1931*

Sunday School Average

Sunday School Average Attendance for November

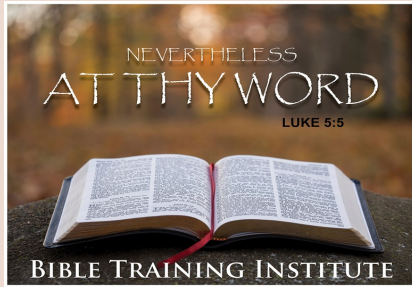
Castalia, OH—16
 Chillicothe, OH—5
 Niles, MI—5
 Fairmont, WV—8
 Page, WV—8
 Seth, WV—8



Attendance for September
 Castalia, OH—19

Sunday School Average Attendance for December

Castalia, OH—13
 Chillicothe, OH—4
 Niles, MI—5
 Fairmont, WV—7
 Page, WV—8
 Seth, WV—9



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme:
“Nevertheless At Thy Word”

Are We Taking God at His Word?

The apostle Paul being thankful for the faith and love of the saints of Ephesus prays for them, “... *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto (them) the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him...*” (Ephesians 1: 17).

Paul, in this epistle where for the first time he emphasizes the doctrine of the Church, prays that the saints of Ephesus may have the wisdom to understand the greatness of the revelation that has been given to them. In a nutshell, that is the purpose of this endeavor—that the saints of God may know for certain the truths of the divine revelation of The Church of God. The revelation of The Church of God as the Body of Christ is accepted by faith. It is not a blind faith; however, it is a faith based upon evidence found in the inspired Word of God. The Church of God is not only truth accepted by divine revelation, but it is also truth that can be logically and intellectually defended in the Scripture. It needs to be emphasized that only after faith in the revelation has been exercised will the real insights of the Scriptures open to the believer. As Jesus said, “*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself*” (John 7:17). All truth from God must be handled in the same manner. As the individual accepts revelations from God, the knowledge of those doctrines is then opened to him. The truth of The Church of God as the Body of Christ is accepted by faith, but it is a faith founded upon accurate and reliable knowledge.

History & Polity (Introduction).

Ephesians 1:18 “*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; THAT YE MAY KNOW...*”

Do you know for certain the truths of the divine revelation of The Church of God?

2021 Convention Schedule

Southern District—Seth, WV—April, 17

Northern District—Niles, MI—May 1

Regional Convention—Castalia, OH—

July, 16-18